

CHARLES H. TAYLOR
11TH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

MEMBER,

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3311

August 5, 1993

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Mr. James H. Quello
Chairman

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear Mr. Chairman:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

I am writing in regards to the implementation of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992. As you know, small cable systems provide an invaluable service to rural areas, and I hope you will bear in mind the particular problems they face as they work to comply with the regulations set forth under the Cable Act.

Western North Carolina could never be mistaken for an urban metropolis, and thus far only small cable operators have been willing to offer multichannel video programming. The rules crafted by your agency should take into account the special danger of excessive administrative burdens on these small systems.

Congress specifically recognized the danger of overburdening small systems. I hope that the Commission will be cautious in imposing burdensome and time-consuming regulations that might limit the growth of small cable systems and diminish service to my constituents as well as other rural Americans. Two areas of particular concern are customer service and rate regulation.

I wholeheartedly support the idea of customer service standards. However, imposing industry-wide standards on small systems unfairly punishes operators who simply do not have staff and other resources available. Therefore, I would encourage the FCC to exempt, where appropriate, systems with fewer than 1,000 subscribers from Commission customer service requirements.

The rate regulations must take into consideration the unique situation of many small systems. I urge the Commission to consider separate rate benchmarks for systems with fewer than 1,000 subscribers. Most importantly, I hope the Commission recognizes that small operators have limited revenue opportunities; small system benchmarks should not unduly restrict the few revenue streams available to small systems.

I have met with several cable operators in my district and they have informed firsthand of the concerns regarding the

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effects of the Commission's Cable Act regulations. The valuable service provided by these small operators to residents of Western North Carolina and other rural areas throughout the country should be encouraged. I encourage the Commission to reconsider the regulatory impact on small cable operators and, where appropriate, exempt those systems from the rules or waive the rules in order to accommodate the special circumstances in which these systems operate.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

With warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles".

Charles H. Taylor
Member of Congress

CHT/cc